

Malawi

Human Papillomavirus and Related Cancers, Fact Sheet 2023 (2023-03-10)



I. Key data on HPV and HPV-related cancers



Malawi has a population of 6.03 million women ages 15 years and older who are at risk of developing cervical cancer. Current estimates indicate that every year 4145 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 2905 die from the disease. Cervical cancer ranks as the 1st most frequent cancer among women in Malawi and the 1st most frequent cancer among women between 15

and 44 years of age. Data is not yet available on the HPV burden in the general population of Malawi. However, in Eastern Africa, the region Malawi belongs to, about 4.7% of women in the general population are estimated to harbour cervical HPV-16/18 infection at a given time, and 67.9% of invasive cervical cancers are attributed to HPVs 16 or 18.

Table 1. Crude incidence rates of HPV-related cancers

	Male	Female
Cervical cancer	-	42.7
Anal cancer	0.25	0.81
Vulva cancer	-	1.00
Vaginal cancer	-	0.88
Penile cancer	1.40	-
Oropharyngeal cancer	0.04	0
Oral cavity cancer	1.10	0.86
Laryngeal cancer	0.54	0.13

Table 2. Burden of cervical cancer

	Incidence	Mortality
Annual number of new cases/deaths	4145	2905
Crude rate	42.7	30.0
Age-standardized rate	67.9	51.5
Cumulative risk 0-74 years (%)	6.95	5.63
Ranking of cervical cancer (all years)	1st	1st
Ranking of cervical cancer (15-44 years)	1st	1st

Table 3. Burden of cervical HPV infection Malawi

	No. Tested	% (95% CI)
HPV 16/18 prevalence:		
Normal cytology	-	-
Low-grade cervical lesions	-	-
High-grade cervical lesions	-	-
Cervical cancer	-	-

Figure 1. Comparison of the ten most frequent HPV oncogenic types in Malawi among women with and without cervical lesions



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II. Complementary data on cervical cancer prevention

Table 4. Factors contributing to cervical cancer (co-factors)

Smoking prevalence (%) [95% UI], women	3.6 [1.9-5.6]
Total fertility rate (live births per women)	4.5
Hormonal contraception use (%)	2.40
HIV prevalence (%) [95% UI] (15-49 years)	11.1 [9.9-12.2]

Table 5. Sexual behaviour

MEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	22.2
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	18.3 - 18.6
WOMEN	
Percentage of 15-year-old who have had sexual intercourse	12.8
Range of median age at first sexual intercourse	16.9 - 17.3

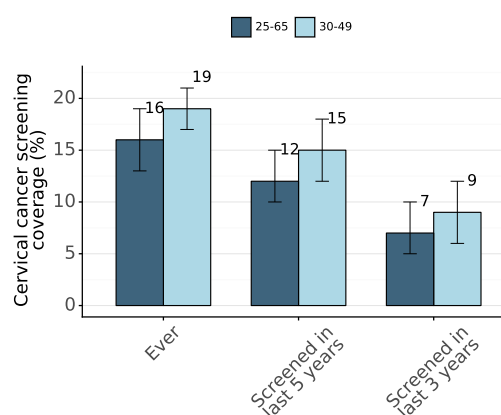
Table 6. HPV vaccine introduction

Females	
HPV vaccination programme	Introduced
Year of introduction	2019
Year of estimation	2021
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	14
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	12
Males	
HPV vaccination programme	Not Available/Not Introduced
Year of introduction	-
Year of estimation	-
HPV coverage – first dose (%)	-
HPV coverage – last dose (%)	-

Table 7. Cervical screening practices and recommendations

Existence of official national recommendations	Yes
Starting year of recommendations	2004
Active invitation to screening	No
Screening ages (years), primary screening test used, and screening interval or frequency of screenings	30-49 (VIA, 5 years)

Figure 2. Estimated coverage of cervical cancer screening in Malawi*



* Estimated coverage and 95% confidence interval in 2019

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